

Wilson blasts health care vote

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By Mark Bellune

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Rep. Joe Wilson blasted a new health care reform plan calling it a job killer.

His Democratic opponent, Rob Miller, said Tuesday he would have voted for the bill in a different format.

Wilson of Springdale applauded the minority vote against the bill as a push to limit the power of the federal government to control health care.

"I want to thank all of the hardworking Americans who fought tirelessly over the last year to shine light on the job-killing provisions in this government takeover of health care," Wilson said in a prepared statement after voting against the provision Sunday night. "The provisions in the bill and the process used to secure passage were both designed to enhance the power of politicians; citizens should be proud of efforts to limit such power. Today's outcome is sad for America, but don't think for one second you didn't make a difference.

"Last summer, liberals had every intention of ramming through an irresponsible bill without so much as giving the American people and the press time to properly comprehend it," he continued. "Your efforts in spreading the word about the frightening provisions stockpiled throughout the bill forced Speaker Pelosi and the White House to take a long pause and reevaluate their game plan.

"After making your voices heard loud and clear at town hall meetings and rallies across the country, you moved on to the ballot boxes in Virginia, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Washington liberals may have chosen to ignore your message today, but you can remind them again soon that you are a force which is awakened to support change in the future.

"Please know that while your efforts to protect the doctor-patient relationship and prevent a federal government takeover of health care were not appreciated by a majority of lawmakers, they are certainly appreciated by a majority of freedom-loving Americans across the country.

Wilson said the VFW urged a 'no' vote on H.R. 4872 and that the government health care takeover does not fully protect the healthcare programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the military's Tricare system.

Miller filed last week to run for the Second Congressional District as a Democrat.

"I support health insurance reform," Miller said in a statement released Tuesday by his campaign. "It is important that we increase competition and lower costs, end denying people based on pre-existing conditions, end life-time caps, and make Medicare stronger for our seniors, and we need to do this while paying down the national debt. Had I been in Congress, this bill would be substantially different than what passed on Sunday. Each and every member of Congress who came to the table played a significant role in crafting the piece of legislation that came to the floor."